1	2	3
9.	Audit Assistant	6
10.	Steno Grade-III	4
11.	UDC	3
12.	Jeep Driver	1
13.	LDC	6
14.	Daftary	1
15.	Group 'D' including Sweeper	5

Encounters with Pakistan on J & K Border

778. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) whether some Indian and Pak soldiers were killed recently in an exchange of heavy fire in the Poonch sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what was the number of times when Indian and Pak troops exchanged fire in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir since the beginning of 1990 stating the number of casualties, if any, on both the sides;

(d) what is the number of Pakistani intruders apprehended in the Indian territory;

(e) whether Government have lodged any protest with the Pakistan Government; and

(f) what steps have been taken by Government to strengthen the Indian positions along Jammu and Kashmir border to meet any eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) to (c) There have been some casualties during the recent exchange of fire between Indian and Pakistani soldiers in Poonch Sector. There have also been sporadic incidents of unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops across the Line of Control. It will not be desirable to disclose the details.

(d) Nine Pak infiltrators have been apprehended along the borders by the security forces since January, 1990.

(e) In accordance with the spirit of the Simla Agreement, issues relating to border incidents including firing incidents, are normally sought to be resolved bilaterally through flag meetings between local commanders of the two sides and these are held whenever the need arises. Firing incidents are not normally taken up through diplomatic channels.

(f) A very colse watch is kept on all developments and our troops are fully equipped to meet any eventuality.

Security threat from naval base set up by Sri Lanka at Kachchathiva Island

779. SHR S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious security threat from the naval base to be set up by Sri Lanka in Kachchathiva island ceded by India to Sri Lanka in 1974;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to counter the threat; and

(c) whether Government propose to undertake the Sedhu Samudra Project as a defence project and complete it by the earliest to obviate circuitous sea routes for effective patrolling of southern shores?